

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07522 01 OF 02 181327Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 SSM-03

OPR-02 AID-05 /095 W

----- 081468

O P 181219Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1814

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 103

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 7522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 18

REF: BEIRUT 7511

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07522 01 OF 02 181327Z

1. SUMMARY: SARKIS, ARAFAT AND SYRIAN GENERAL JAMIL MEET IN

CHTAURA, EXPECTED MEET AGAIN SEP 19. WIDESPREAD HOPES THAT AGREEMENTS WILL BE MADE LEADING TO PEACE/GZEM PREMATURE. PLAN TO PLACE SYRIAN AND OTHER ARAB FORCES UNDER SARKIS' COMMAND RUMORED. CHAMOUN SAYS SARKIS CANNOT TAKE OFFICE UNLESS PARLIAMENT MEETS TO SWEAR HIM IN. RUMORS ABOUND ON SUPERMINISTER CHAMOUN'S INTENTIONS. JUNBLATT DENOUNCES SECURITY AGREEMENTS MADE WITH "NO MATTER WHAT COUNTRY." DENIES HE IS SEEKING DIALOGUE WITH KATAEB. GROUND SITUATION STABLE BUT CLASHES AND HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS IN SEVERAL AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. TRIPARTITE MEETING. SARKIS, ARAFAT AND ASSAD ENVOY GENERAL NAGI JAMIL MET SEP 17 AT CHTAURA UNDER AEGIS AL'S HASSAN SABRI KHOLI. ARAFAT ACCOMPANIED BY FATAH MODERATES HANI AL-HASAN AND ALI HASSAN SALAMEH INSTEAD OF HARDLINER ABU IYAD SENT TO REPRESENT PALESTINIANS AT LAST SOFAR MEETING WITH SYRIANS. SARKIS DELEGATION INCLUDED BRIGADIER MUSA KANAN, COL. AHMAD AL-HAJJ AND MAJOR SAMI DAHER. JAMIL ACCOMPANIED BY COL. MOHAMMAD AL-KHOLI. GROUP SCHEDULED MEET AGAIN YEP 19, IF SARKIS BACK FROM CAIRO WHERE HE NOW HOLDING TALKS WITH SADAT. L'ORIENT LE JOUR SAYS THREE QUESTIONS DISCUSSED AT CHTAURA WERE OVERALL CEASE-FIRE, TIMETABLE AND PROGRAM FOR CAIRO ACCORDS APPLICATION, AND WITHDRAWAL OF PALESTINIANS & LEFTISTS FROM MOUNTAINS. AL MOHARRIR SAYS PALESTINIAN/SYRIAN RELATIONS ALSO DISCUSSED, MOSTLY ACRIMONIOUSLY. ARAFAT SAID DEMANDING "GUARANTEES" FROM ARAB STATES AND LEBANESE RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, POSITION ALREADY REJECTED BY KFOUR FRONT. JAMIL DESCRIBED SESSION AS "PRELUDE TO STOP OF FIGHTING" AND KHOLI DESCRIBED DISCUSSIONS AS "FRANK, CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE," AND EXPRESSED HOPE FOR "DEFINITE ACCORD" AS RESULT OF NEXT MEETING.

3. REACTIONS TO CHTAURA SESSION. OPTIMISM OVER POSSIBLE RESULTS TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE, TEMPERED BY UNEASINESS OVER DISRUPTIVE POTENTIAL OF BOTH JUNBLATT AND CHAMOUN. KATAEB VOICE OF LEBANON EMPHASIZED PROBLEMS SURROUNDING POSSIBLE REACTIVATION OF JULY 29 SYRIAN/PALESTINIAN ACCORD. LEFTIST RADIO LEBANON
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 07522 01 OF 02 181327Z

NOTED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CHAMOUN/FRANGIE POSITION, THAT THERE CAN BE NO NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS BEFORE WITHDRAWAL FROM MOUNTAINS, AND MORE MODERATE KATAEB DESIRE TO FACILITATE PEACEFUL SARKIS ASSUMPTION OF OFFICE. AN NAHAR SAYS IT UNDERSTANDS THERE WAS PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON CEASE-FIRE AND REACTIVATION OF SECURITY SUPERVISION COMMITTEE BUT OPINES MEETING JUSTIFIES NEITHER OPTIMISM NOR PESSIMISM.

4. POSSIBLE NEW MILIARY ARRANGEMENTS. AL MOHARRIR SAYS AS RESULT OF RECENT NEGOTIATIONS, FOLLOWING HAS BEEN AGREED: 1) SARKIS WILL APPOINT ARMY COMMAND COMPOSED OF OFFICERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN FIGHTING; 2) ARAB STATES WILL "LEND" NEW PEACE-KEEPING FORCES TO LEBANON TO BE PLACED DIRECTLY UNDER SARKIS' COMMAND; 3) THESE ARAB FORCES WILL COOPERATE WITH EXISTING AL FORCES IN GUARANTEEING SECURITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCORDS; 4) SYRIAN FORCES WILL BE CONSIDERED PART OF LOANED ARAB FORCES AND SUBJECT TO LEBANESE COMMAND; 5) LOANED FORCES WILL STAY UNTIL LEBANESE ARMY IS REBUILT. AS SAFIR QUOTES ABDULLA YAFFI THAT EGYPT WILL SEND FORCES.

5. CHAMOUN EYES INAUGURATION. AFTER SEPTEMBER 17 DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL GHONEIM ON INAUGURATION DAY SECURITY MEASURES, CHAMOUN TOOK POSITION THAT SARKIS SWEARING IN MUST TAKE PLACE BEFORE PARLIAMENT, OTHERWISE PRESIDENT-ELECT CANNOT TAKE OFFICE. (CHAMOUN'S NLP UNITS WELL POSITIONED IN PREFERRED VILLA MANSOUR MUSEUM AREA MEETING SITE TO IMVEDE SUCH A SESSION IF THEY WISH.)DECISION ON MEETING SITE HOWEVER STILL TO COME, PRESUMABLY SEP 20, WHEN PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE MEETS. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT IF CABINET MEETS SEP 20 IT MIGHT ESTABLISH COMMAND COUNCIL AND REPLACE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GENERAL HANNA SAID WITH DRIGADIER ANTOINE LAHUD. PIERRE GEMAYEL HAS AVOIDED PUBLIC CRITICISM OF CABINET RESHUFFLE AND MET WITH FRANGIE AND CHAMOUN SEP 17, SUPPOSEDLY TO REPORT ON CAIRO DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, KATAEB DAILY AL AMAL COMMENTS THAT CABINET CHANCES SIGNIFY UNWILLINGNESS OF SOME RIGHTISTS TO ENTER DIALOGUE WITH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 07522 01 OF 02 181327Z

PALESTINIANS OR LEBANESE MOSLEMS AND HAVE PROVOKED MISUNDERSTANDINGS WITHIN KFOUR FRONT.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07522 02 OF 02 181344Z

41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13 SSM-03

OPR-02 AID-05 /095 W

----- 081678

O P 181219Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1815

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 104

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

CIA WASHDC

COMSIXTHFLT

COMPHIBRON SIX

COM THREE FOUR MAU

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECCTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 7522

6. JUNBLATT ATTACKS RIGHT. KAMAL JUNBLATT SAYS NM IS AGAINST "ALL SECURITY AGREEMENTS WITH NO MATTER WHAT COUNTRY" AND HINTS FRANGIE CABINET RESHUFFLE IS PRELUDE TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT WITH SYRIA. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW JUNBLATT DENOUNCED AN ALLEGED 16-POINT SECRET "ISOLATIONIST PLAN" FOR PARTITION, A CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07522 02 OF 02 181344Z

MAIN POINT OF WHICH IS NOT TO ALLOW SARKIS TO BECOME PRESIDENT BEFORE SECURING CHRISTIAN MILITARY AND POLITICAL ADVANTAGES. JUNBLATT SAYS NM HAS NEVER BEEN IN BETTER POSITION IF "ISOLATIONISTS" WANT TO CONTINUE BATTLE, AND, "WE ARE IN THE VILLAGES OF THE METN TO STAY." HE DENIES PRESS REPORTS THAT HE ASKED PRO-IRAQI BAATHIST FAYEZ KAZZI TO APPROACH KATAEB TO BEGIN

DIALOGUE WITH NM. MOURABITOUN LEADER AND NM POLITICAL COUNCIL MEMBER IBRAHIM KOLEILAT, SAYS "NO ONE ON ON THE LEFT HAS DELEGATED ANYONE TO BEGIN DIALOGUE WITH THE KATAEB."

7.GROUND SITUATION. SITUATION DETERIORATED. HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS OF SEVERAL BEIRUT RESIDENTIAL AREAS. CONFRONTATION LINE ACTIVE AND MUSEUM AREA CHECKPOINT CLOSED. MUCH DAMAGED BUT STILL FUNCTIONING BERBIR HOSPITAL IN MUSEUM AREA AGAIN HIT. CLASHES IN SOUTHEAST SUBURBS. IN MOUNTAINS, ESCALATED CLASHES AND HEAVY BOMBARDMENTS, ESPECIALLY AROUND ALEY/KAHALE. EXCHANGES OF HEAVY ARTILLERY IN HIGH METN. HEAVY SHELLING IN TRIPOLI AREA. IN THE SOUTH, SERIOUS CLASH AT QLAIAA FIVE KILOMETERS FROM ISRAELI FRONTIER BETWEEN RIGHTISTS AND PALESTINIAN/LEFTISTS. WOUNDED VILLAGERS SAID TAKEN ACROSS BORDER TO ISRAELI FIELD HOSPITAL. DEATH TOLL COUNTRYWIDE STILL AROUND 100 EACH 24 HOURS. LANE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT07522
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760353-0637
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760946/aaaabmyh.tel
Line Count: 242
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 7511
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <31 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION SEPTEMBER 18
TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006